

21-DrJ-0044  
April 21, 2021

Brundy Pursley  
President  
Piazza Stone, LLC  
3817 Martinez Blvd. Ste A  
Augusta, GA 30907

Re: Protection of Confidential Information, Intellectual Property, and Trade Secrets

Dear Mr. Pursley,

As part of the process of certifying Piazza Stone® Masonry Units in TER 1909-03 and RockCast Lightweight Series in TER 2002-03, DrJ Engineering, LLC (DrJ) evaluated test reports and other supporting evidence to determine compliance with the requirements of the building code. DrJ is an ISO/IEC 17065 ANAB-accredited product certification body (#32) and an approved source, which provides the legal basis for evaluating alternative materials, design and methods of construction for code compliance in accordance with IBC Section 104.11, Section 1703, and Section 1703.4. All ANAB-accredited companies evaluate third-party data from ISO/IEC 17025 testing and ISO/IEC 17020 quality assurance inspection agencies and related engineering analyses. This information can also be obtained from licensed registered design professionals via signed and sealed reports.

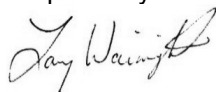
The overall aim of the above-mentioned ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation process is to protect a company's confidential information (CI), intellectual property (IP), and trade secrets (TS). The Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Competition requires all companies do so, particularly with respect to intellectual property protections, professional engineering regulations/ethics, and freedom of information act laws, which have been used by competitors to obtain a company's proprietary knowledge. The goal of the ISO/IEC 17065 process is to provide regulatory authorities with the ability to easily approve alternative materials, designs or methods of construction, while minimizing risk to city, county, or state regulatory officials (e.g., building officials) as related to CI, IP, TS, product/process/engineering discrimination, and FTC/DOJ economic competition regulations.

One of the functions of a research report/technical evaluation, as defined in IBC Section 104.11.1, is founded on protecting knowledge (i.e., CI, IP, TS). For example, any test data, engineering analysis, or software development is proprietary. To provide appropriate protection, all CI, IP, and TS data is reviewed, affirmed, and summarized in a public report created by an ISO/IEC 17065 approved agency. The ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation process provides assurance that each listed agency is IBC Section 1703 compliant.

Therefore, CI, IP, and TS submitted to DrJ in support of a Technical Evaluation Report (TER) cannot be provided to anyone, except as authorized by its owner, which is generally withheld for appropriate legal reasons. Given this and based upon providing a 17065 research report, any regulatory authority shall approve the use of the alternative material, design or method of construction or provide the reason why an innovative and alternative product should not be approved.

Please contact us if we can help further in any way.

Prepared by:



Larry Wainright  
Vice President Product Certification  
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Reviewed and Ratified by:



Kirk Grundahl, SE  
GA SE No. SE000611  
President  
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